

Bangladesh Water Partnership Monthly Report March, 2016

BWP has implemented the following activities during March 2016, under core program.

❖ Activities under core

01. Celebration of International Women's Day



The principal objective of the celebration was to disseminate knowledge amongst university students to raise awareness about gender-based water management. The celebration was attended by more than 120 participants from Academic, Non Academic organizations and members of BWWN.



Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator of BWWN is presenting the key note paper.

Secretary of BWP delivered a presentation on activities, vision and mission of BWWN. Begum Shamsun Nahar, Coordinator of BWWN, then presented the key note paper of the day. She gave an overview of the scenario of women and water in Bangladesh. A successful grass-root level entrepreneur was also invited to motivate students by sharing her success story on water management in her locality.

For the very first time, Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP) celebrated the International Women's Day jointly with Bangladesh Women and Water Network (BWWN) and Department of Women and Gender Studies (DWGS) of Dhaka University (DU) on 08 March, 2016. The program consisted of a rally followed by a half day seminar on "Women and Water: Global Scenario and Bangladesh Perspectives".

The event started with the welcome address delivered by Ms. Ishrat Khan Barsha, Assistant Professor of DWGS. She pointed out that International Women's Day is a very important and significant celebration for the department and its students. Dr. K. Azharul Haq, President of BWP, next took the floor to inform the participants about women's participation in BWP, its achievement and future strategies under the umbrella of GWP. He also shared a real world scenario in global perspective and urged for women education to get involved in water management from the very early stage. Later Ms. Mukta Akter, Member Secretary of BWWN and Executive



students, teachers and guests actively participated on the theme of the day. An important recommendation from the event was to enhance involvement the women in Water Resources Management from their academic stage.

A thematic drama was performed by the faculty students on potable water scarcity and its management in urban area. The session was ended by the concluded remarks by the Faculty Chair of DWGS, Dr. Sayed Saikh Imtiaz.

There were 2 designated discussants from faculty members who discussed on the importance of women participation in water management in Bangladesh. The designated discussants pointed out that the quantitative approach used for measuring women participation in water sector can be misleading since there is no provision for the qualitative impact of water based jobs on women's lives. A fruitful discussion was followed where

02. Celebration of World Water Day



Dr. K. Azharul Haq, President of BWP is presenting the key note paper.

BWP celebrated World Water Day on 22 March 2016 jointly with Centre for Environment and Geographical Information System (CEGIS), Institute of Water Modeling (IWM), Bangladesh National Committee of ICID (BANCID), Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Department of Water Resource and Engineering (WRE) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). The celebration consisted of a half day seminar on “Water and Jobs” and was held in the Seminar Room of BUET Academic Council Building.

The event was graced by the participation of the chief guest- Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, M.P, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR). Acknowledging that one third of the population of Bangladesh is in danger of losing its land to the sea with the current rate of sea-level rise, Barrister Mahmud assured that new type of technology and management adopted by the Government will effectively prevent any such situation. Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), said that the most affected victims of climate change induced natural disasters are the rural poor of the country and thus awareness raising programs should be conducted in every Zilla and Upazilla of the country. Md. Masud Ahmed, chair of the session, and the rest of the designated discussants agreed



The Chief Guest - Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, M.P, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) is delivering his speech.

that to turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021, management of water is a crucial issue. The entire program was anchored by Ms. Mukta Akter, Executive Secretary of BWP.

The seminar was attended by more than 100 participants including senior officials from the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Bangladesh Water Development Board, Water Resources Planning Organization including many other government and non-government organizations, academic institutions, research organizations working with water resource management in Bangladesh and also foreign participants from different

developing agencies. A significant number of students and young water professionals also participated and shared their views on the theme of the day.

The day was celebrated with the major objective to appraise the stakeholders in water sector of the current scenario of water resources and management in Bangladesh and the present and probable job opportunities related to water. Two keynote papers were presented on the day by Md. Abdul Matin, Professor of Water Resource & Engineering (WRE), BUET and Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, President, BWP. Dr. Matin gave his presentation on 'Prospect of Water Resources in Bangladesh: Role of Water Professionals'. Quoting UN Water, Dr. Matin reiterated the 'multiplier effect' of water in indirect employment opportunities. Dr. Haq, presented a paper on "Water and Jobs". He gave a synopsis of how men have been historically linked with water and how water opens up a continuous cycle of jobs creating more multidisciplinary and subsidiary work.

Attracted by Dr. Haq's presentation, the media took points from his speech and published them in a national daily newspaper titled "The Daily Star" on Wednesday, 23 March 2016. Attached is the segment of the newspaper where Dr. Haq was mentioned.

After speeches from experts and eminent pioneers of the field, the participants expressed their opinions and inquiries regarding the prospect of water and jobs in Bangladesh. A number of valuable recommendations came up from the political leaders, experts, young water professionals and general audience. The seminar was successful in creating a platform for active flow of ideas among different stakeholders in various tiers of the water-sector based hierarchy.

03. Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Concept and Practices of Integrated Water Resource Management”



As per its annual activity, BWP organized Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Concept and Practices of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)” from 20 March to 24 March 2016 in association with Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS). The main purpose of the training program was to introduce the IWRM concept, its principle and to share application experience to district level

as well as regional level water managers and experts, from different organizations so that they can use and share their knowledge and experience in their respective working area and can conduct similar training to others of his/her organization.

About 19 participants from different organizations such as Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Department of Environment (DoE), Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Forest, Dhaka WASA, BWP, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and many others from different discipline attended the training event.

A total of 25 lectures were delivered by internal and external resource persons. The training program was divided into two sessions, first session covered formal training session with lectures on IWRM and its practices for four days and the second part was a day long field visit to gain practical experience on IWRM application. The technical sessions were conducted on 20, 21 and 22 March and a field visit to significant



Urban Water Management projects viz Dholaikhal Pump Station, Kallayanpur Pump Station and Goranchatbari Pump Station took place on 23 March. A training evaluation was held at the end of each day session to get ideas and opinions from both the trainer and the training regarding the ToT course.

In the inaugural session, Mr. H.S Mozaddad Faruque, Vice President of BWP was present as the Special Guest along with the Chief Guest Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR). Dr. Azharul Haq, President of BWP was present in the closing ceremony as the Guest of Honor. He also delivered a lecture titled “Water Supply and Security, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health in IWRM” before the certificate awarding in the closing session on 24 March 2016. Rector of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BAPTC), Mr. A. L. M. Abdur Rahman was present as the chief

guest of the closing session. Both the inaugural and closing sessions were presided over by Mr. Engr. Waji Ullah, Executive Director of CEGIS. After successful completion of the five days long training program, the participants were given Certificates of Completion and necessary training materials.

A detailed training report will be submitted to the regional office in April 2016.

04. Training for Building Capacity on Climate Change Adaptation



BWP organized a training course on “Capacity Building About Climate Change Adaptation” from 27 March to 31 March 2016 in association with Institute of Water Modeling (IWM). The main purpose of the training program was to share lessons, knowledge and experiences available in Bangladesh to manage and adapt climate related impact on water resources. Case studies and basics including policies were addressed by the highly qualified, experienced experts and professionals in this area.



A total of 10 trainees participated in the training program. Among them 2 were from BWDB, 1 from BARC, 1 from LGED, 1 from NGO Forum, 3 from IWM, 1 from Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) and 1 from WARPO. The training covered a range of topics including Agriculture and food security, Water supply and sanitation, infrastructure management, Flood management and Mainstreaming/cross cutting issues.

A detailed training report will be submitted to the regional office in April 2016.

❖ Activities outside core

01. International River Conservation Day Observation



Reach to Unreached (RUN), Member partner of BWP, observed International River Conservation Day on 14 March, 2016. The event, co-funded by BWP, consisted of the formation of human chain with over 200

people in front of Kirtonkhola River, Barisal. The participants were local people as well as members from different NGOs viz Barisal NGO Development Network, Water Integrity Network (WIN), Bangladesh Water Rights Forum, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA), Concern Citizen-TIB, Bangladesh Water Partnership (BWP), etc. The human chain was presided over by Mr. Md. Rafiqul Alam, Executive Director, RUN. About 2000 leaflets were distributed among the local people. The leaflets enlisted the 15 demands made by BAPA based on the protection of rivers from pollution and illegal appropriation. The formation of human chain was followed by a rally at the end of which a Memorandum, dedicated to the Honorable Prime Minister, People's Republic of Bangladesh, was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Barisal. The main objective of the program was to alert the Government through administration of different river-based departments like BWDB, BIWTA, Department of Environment (DoE), etc. The beneficiaries are the river-dependent people like agro-farmers, fishermen, boatmen, and others whose life and profession depend on rivers.

02. Celebration of World Water Day in Barisal City



BWP co-funded a seminar to celebrate World Water Day on 24 March 2016 in Barisal, Bangladesh. The event was co-organized by District Administration, Public Health Engineering Department and World Water Day United Celebration Committee of Barisal. The main objective of the event was to bring about positive change in the society through raising awareness among people.

The chief guest of the seminar was Dr. Md. Saifuzzaman, District Commissioner of Barisal. Mr. Ranjit Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of Barisal City Corporation, Mr. Md. Sajidur Rahman Sardar, Chief Engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), Barisal, Mr. S. M. Sahidul Islam, Executive Engineer of Public Health Department, Barisal, Mr. Babul Akter, Executive Engineer of WDB, Barisal, Mr. A. H. M. Rashed, Assistant Director of Department of Environment (DoE), Barisal, Mr. Kausar Hossain, Education Officer of UNICEF, Barisal and Mr. Md. Shahidul Islam, Assistant Director of Naval Security and Traffic Management department of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) were present in the seminar as special guests. The keynote paper of the seminar was presented by Mr. Linkon Bayen, Member of World Water Day United Celebration Committee of Barisal and district co-coordinator of BELA, Barisal.

A number of recommendations were given by the participants during the open session period such as implementation of Rainwater harvesting equipments on rooftops during planning of buildings, conservation of rivers in Barisal, reclamation of sources of rivers, installing water treatment plants, separation of drain and sewerage lines, waste management, etc.